

would prevent 8,000 premature deaths a year and save up to \$67 billion, the sweetener that was needed to try to get these tax breaks for 160 million Americans.

I urge my colleagues to see the folly of their ways and pull these harmful riders out of the bill, to stop their effort to just defeat President Obama, and do what's right for the American public—to create jobs and to help people on unemployment, which will stimulate our economy.

In their Pledge to America, they describe what they called “circumventing the will of the American people.” That's what they're doing today. The will of the American people is not to have deaths and injuries, health and environmental policies destroyed, but to create jobs and to help people through this difficult recession.

I would ask that we defeat this bill, come back, work together, and do what's right for the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

This is a season of hope for many in our Nation—for some religious hope, for some celebratory hope, and for others hope for greater blessings in their lives. We ask that You might listen to the hopes of our Nation.

We ask Your blessing as well on the Members of this House, whose responsibilities are heavy as the first session of this 112th Congress nears its completion. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SOUTH CAROLINA WINS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE NLRB

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the National Labor Relations Board announced that they had approved the requests by the International Association of Machinists to withdraw its complaint against Boeing. For the past year, the President's National Labor Relations Board has played the role of a Big Labor bully by threatening the jobs of hardworking South Carolinians by stalling the second line of the 787 Dreamliner production in Charleston.

Boeing chose to locate in South Carolina due to its welcoming business climate due in large part to its right-to-work laws. Instead of rewarding unions for their political investments, I urge the current administration to enact policies protecting the rights of workers and allowing for growth of small businesses creating jobs. The lesson of this NLRB intrusion is clear: do not locate your facilities in union States because if you enter, like a roach motel, you cannot leave.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Over 13 million Americans are looking for work. That means for every one job opening in the United States, there are four Americans actively seeking employment. Another 10 million people have given up looking for a full-time job altogether because companies just aren't hiring.

These are real people. They are more than just numbers. Ellen Andrews lost her job last year. She's been supporting herself and her 1-year-old son Henry with her unemployment benefits. They help her keep the lights on and keep food in the house until she can get a job.

But the Republican plan will change all that. It will cut 40 weeks of Federal benefits out from under people like Ellen; and it will force partisan policies, like the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, on to a bill that should be all about helping American families.

With the holidays around the corner, Congress should be about giving America hope and security, not playing partisan politics.

JOB CREATION

(Ms. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on December 10 Pamela from Greenwood Lake, New York, in our beautiful 19th District, sent the following letter to me: “Stop any more Federal spending. Less is better. Europe is a lesson for us. We live in the greatest Nation on Earth.”

And, Pamela, you're absolutely right. If we are going to spread the blessings of the greatest opportunity society in history, then as we enter this holiday season, we need the promise of growth.

Your House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats alike, have as of today passed 27 bills, job-growing, growth-promoting bills that protect American workers and job creators from tax increases, roll back burdensome regulations, and end the Federal spending that suffocates the economic engine of enterprise. And we keep them listed on a card so everybody knows.

I urge the Senate to act now to put those bills to work and put our people back to work and give every American good reason to look forward to a happy new year in this land of liberty.

PAYROLL TAX CUT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will debate extending the payroll tax cut. I strongly urge extending this tax cut. If we don't, tens of millions of New York families will see an average tax increase of \$1,000 next year, and as many as 400,000 jobs could be lost nationwide.

But, frankly, it is ridiculous that we are considering this legislation on the floor today. With so many unrelated riders attached to the bill, we know it is dead on arrival in the Senate. This charade will create anxiety among middle class Americans that their taxes are about to go up, and it will create economic uncertainty during the holiday season when so much of